

Central assistance for drought

***604. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any efforts to face the drought in various parts of the country in general and in Tamil Nadu, in particular;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of assistance rendered to various States by the Centre during the last year; and

(d) the lessons Government have learnt from the perennial drought situation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Government of Tamil Nadu have informed that no part of the State has been declared as drought affected. The steps taken by the Government of India to assist the drought affected States include free transportation of drinking water and fodder by the Railways, allocation of foodgrains free of cost under Food for Work Programme, allocation of "feed grade" foodgrains for use as cattle feed, handing over of exploratory tube wells for drinking water purposes and relaxation of norms in regard to release of funds under drinking water supply schemes.

(c) Details of financial assistance provided to the drought affected States during 2000-01 is indicated below:

(Rs. in crore)

S.No.	State	Central share of CRF*	Assistance from NCCF**
1.	Chhattisgarh	20.60	40.00
2.	Gujarat	131.14	85.00
3.	Himachal Pradesh	32.61	—
4.	Madhya Pradesh	46.98	35.00
5.	Maharashtra	117.90	—

S.No.	State	Central share of CRF*	Assistance from NCCF**
6.	Orissa	103.65	35.00
7.	Rajasthan	196.00	85.00
8.	Uttaranchal	7.10	—

*CRF — Calamity Relief Fund.

**NCCF — National Calamity Contingency Fund.

(d) Occurrence of drought is mainly due to deficient rainfall which results in scarcity of water leading to drought like situation. Water conservation and water harvesting are the long-term measures required to mitigate the drought like situation besides community participation and public awareness. There are a number of related programmes/schemes which have components of drought mitigation.

Dowry deaths in States

*606. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dowry deaths and other dowry related cases reported from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Assam and other States during 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and so far in this year; and

(b) whether Government are aware that the provisions of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 are themselves prohibitive against the victims in so far as both the giver and taker of dowry are liable to be prosecuted, despite the fact that dowry is usually given under various social and other pressures and even duress; if so, the modifications, if any, proposed to be made in the law and procedure relating to dowry?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) A Statement showing the statistical data compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs regarding the number of dowry deaths and cases registered under the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 during the years 1999 and 2000 is given (*See below*).

(b) The National Commission for Women (NCW), under its mandate to review the legal and Constitutional safeguards available